THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The quinquennial surveys on employment and unemployment, conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), provide comprehensive data on employment and unemployment situation in the country. The latest such survey was conducted in 1993-94 (50th round). According to the information available from the latest NSSO survey, unemployment in the country as per Usual Principal Status (UPS), is estimated to be 9.0 million as on 1st January, 1994. This includes unemployment in the entire workforce pertaining to both organised and unorganised sectors.

(c) Separate targets for employment in organised and unorganised sectors are not fixed. The Eighth Five Year Plan envisaged 8 to 9 million average addition in employment opportunities per annum. During 1987-88 to 1993-94, the addition to employment as per UPS was 43.91 million. This implies an average addition of 7.3 million employment opportunities per annum.

(d) As on 1st January, 1994 the unemployment is estimated to be 9.0 million.

(e) Achievement of rate of growth of employment is crucially dependent on the overall growth in the economy and sectoral and sub sectoral pattern of growth. The rate of growth of employment observed during 1987-88 to 1993-94 covers only the initial two years of the Eights Plan. During this period, sectors like Manufacturing, Mining & Quarrying; Construction and Community, Social & Personal Services registered a lower growth than the respective targets in the 8th Plan.

(f) The estimates for the Ninth Plan are not available.

(g) The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to productive employment which will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and under-employment.

Money Stuck in Central Sector Projects

248. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total amount of money stuck in incomplete 233 Central Sector projects in the country at current price level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): As on March 1998, out of 454 projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above on the monitor of the Department of Programme Implementation, 234 projects were due for completion by March 1998 as per the original schedule but remained incomplete. The latest estimated cost of these 234 projects is Rs. 94042.5 crore.

Separate Central Pool for North-Eastern Region

249. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken to create a separate non-lapsable budgetary Central pool for the North East for funding developmental projects in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the proposed funding is likely to improve the existing pattern to speed up developmental activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Union Government have decided to create a non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for the development of all the seven North-Eastern States and Sikkim for taking up specific programmes/projects/schemes in these States.

(b) The modalities of the Pool are to be worked out.

(c) The creation of non-lapsable Central Pool is likely to improve the funding pattern of the developmental activities in the North Eastern States and Sikkim. The extent of additional funding would be known after the Central Government's regular Budget for 1998-99 is finalised.

Economic Package for North-Eastern States

250. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N.R. DASARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an economic package was announced by the previous UF Government for North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details of that package and how far it has been implemented; and

(c) the present Government's view on the continuation of this package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Former Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda had announced on 27th October, 1996 an economic package for North East entitled "New initiatives for North Eastern Region". The details of this package and the status of its implementation are given at Annexure [*See* Appendix 184. Annexure Nos. 3 and 4]. Some additional features to this package were announced b the then Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral in May, 1997. Its details alongwith the status report of implementation is given at annexure. [*See* Appendix 784 Annexure No. 5]

(c) Package would be continued.

Budgetary Support for North-Eastern States

251. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently unveiled a plan for North-East development;

(b) if so, the salient features of such plan;

(c) whether PMO has since issued instructions to all Central Ministries/Departments to keep aside 10% of their respective budgets earmarked exclusively for North-eastern Sector, if so, the amount likely to be kept as Central pool for the area during 1998-99; and

(d) whether Government proposed to waive the loan to North-eastern States as done in the case of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab by previous Government, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PRARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister met the Chief Ministers of North-Eastern States and Sikkim on 8 May, 1998 to discuss issues relating to accelerated development of these States. The steps to be taken by the Government in this regard included, inter-alia, adoption of project approach for which projects would be identified in